

VIRGINIA ARGUS.

[XIVth YEAR.]

A FREE PRESS MAINTAINS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLE

[No. 1277.]

RICHMOND:—PRINTED (ON WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS) BY SAMUEL PLEASANTS, JUNIOR, PRINTER TO THE COMMONWEALTH.

[Four Dollars Per Annum....paid in advance.]

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1806.

[12 1-2 Cent Single.]

JUST RECEIVED

And for sale, at S. PLEASANTS' Book Store,

Ruddiman's Rudiments of the Latin Grammar
British Poets (elegant)
Goldsmith's Natural History
Zimmerman on Solitude
Burns's Works, gilt and plain
Johnson's Dictionary in miniature
Geographical Dictionary
Rowe's Letters with plates
Adison's Evidences
History of the World
Whole Duty of Woman
Edinburgh Dispensatory, new edition
Conic Sections
Chapone's Letters
Cruden's Concordance
Walker's Dictionary
Knox's Winter Evenings
Buller's Nisi Prius
Perrin's Dictionary
Jones's Dictionary
Johnson's New Philadelphia Spelling Book
Parlour Spelling Book
Bonnet Boards, &c. &c. &c.

Treasury Department of the U. S. States, June 21, 1806.

WHEREAS the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, at a meeting held on the 28th day of April, 1806, did resolve, that the sum remaining to complete the expenditure of the annual appropriation of EIGHT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, should among other purposes be applied to the reimbursement of the NAVY SIX PER CENT STOCK, created in pursuance of an act of Congress, passed on the 30th day of June, 1798, and to the reimbursement of the FIVE AND A HALF PER CENT STOCK, created in pursuance of an act of Congress, passed on the 3d day of March, 1795.

This is therefore to give notice, that the principal of the said NAVY SIX PER CENT STOCK, with the interest due thereon, will, on surrender of the certificates, be paid the 1st day of October next ensuing the date hereof, to the respective stockholders or their lawful representatives or attorneys duly constituted and authorized, either at the Treasury or at the Loan Office, as the case may be, where credits have been given for the amount of stock, respectively held by them; and that the principal of the FIVE AND A HALF PER CENT STOCK, with the interest due thereon, will in like manner, and at the same place, be paid on the 1st day of January, 1807, to the respective stockholders, or their lawful representatives or attorneys duly constituted and authorized.

It is further made known, for the information of the parties concerned, that no transfers of the NAVY SIX PER CENT STOCK, either from or to the books of the Treasury, or from or to the books of a Commissioner of Loans, will be allowed after the 1st day of September ensuing, nor of the FIVE AND A HALF PER CENT STOCK, after the 1st day of December ensuing. And the interest on all certificates of said stocks, which shall not have been surrendered, in pursuance of this notification, will cease and determine, on the day preceding the day hereby fixed for the reimbursement thereof.

Albert Gallatin,
witness Secretary of the Treasury.

LATELY PUBLISHED,
AND FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE,
DISCOURSES
CONCERNING
GOVERNMENT.

By ALGERNON SIDNEY.

With a short account of the Author's Life, and copious INDEX.
* * * Subscribers who entered with the Rev. M. L. Weems, will be supplied on application as above.

TAKEN UP by William Wooldridge, on his own land in this county, an estray black and white pied BULL; about two years old, no mark perceivable—Viewed and appraised to seven dollars, as the law directs, this 7th March, 1806.
Copy—Teste, TH. WATKINS, C.
Chesfield clerk's office, April 27, 1806.

A Miller Wanted.

THE subscribers wish to employ a MILLER, to attend to a manufacturing mill. To one that can come well recommended, liberal wages will be given.

S. W. Venable & Womack,
Prince Edward, July 4, 1806

THE SHAREHOLDERS in the UPPER APPOMATTOX COMPANY, will please take notice, that the fourth requisition be came due the first day of this month, agreeable to an order of the trustees. The interest of the company requires the strictest punctuality; those who fail to make payment immediately, will be dealt with as the law directs.

Thomas Pride, Receiver.
July 8, 1806.

NEW PUBLICATION.

Just received at S. Pleasants' Book-store, near the Bridge,

An entirely new and interesting work,

ENTITLED,

THE SECRET HISTORY

OF THE

COURT & CABINET OF ST. CLOUD.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS,

From a resident in Paris to a nobleman in London,

Written during the months of August, September and October, 1805.

This work abounds in anecdotes, mostly original, highly piquant, and well related. To the politician it offers an exquisite treat; to the historian will find in it a record of events which he could not obtain from any other source; and the diletant reader cannot fail to derive from it the greatest amusement.

JUST RECEIVED,

At S. Pleasants' Book Store, a few copies of

AN EXAMINATION

OF THE

BRITISH DOCTRINE,

Which subjects to capture a

NEUTRAL TRADE,

NOT OPEN IN

TIME OF PEACE.

FROM THE AURORA.

POLITICAL VIEWS. No. VIII.

COMMERCE OF THE LEVANT.

The woollen trade affords a very excellent criterion of the proportions possessed by the several nations in the general commerce of the Levant. The linen trade appears to be comparatively insignificant; that is, *linens* the produce of *flax* and hemp.

The *linens* of Silesia, Carinthia, Bohemia, Lower Austria, and a considerable portion from Belgium found their way to the Levant; from 1000 to 1500 pieces, and found a market; some of these were ornamented with needle work to the taste of the country; but the trade has fallen off, perhaps owing to the universal introduction of cottons, and the cotton cloth being at once more comfortable and healthful. The damasked *linens*, Vienna, Trieste, Venice, Ghent, Brussels, and Holland, and other parts of the low countries, with grotesque figures and variegated borders, continue their value and are in demand; but in the best periods of the linen trade, England sent none; & the whole of that commerce did not exceed 400,000 dollars.

The cotton piece goods of Asia, by their cheapness & profusion, appear to have obtained the preference of the universe, to have superceded *linens* in all warm climates; and to a great extent in cold climates; their flexibility, the absorbing quality of the cotton, the facility with which it is cleansed & bleached; wrought into various patterns; and stained with various dyes, renders the trade in cotton one of the most important articles that enters into universal commerce; & it promises to be the most durable and co-extensive with the manufacturers of iron.

The cotton goods consumed in the Levant, cannot be easily conceived by those who have not an acquaintance with oriental habits and manners. The staid cotton called *calicoes*, which are in universal demand, require patterns of a taste peculiar to the country; those which fashion produces in Europe would not find a vent in the Turkish empire; a taste as barbarous and outre, as that of the *Chinese* (epithets which they bestowed perhaps with equal justice upon the taste of Europeans) prevails in Turkey, and the Greeks who abhor their tyrants, are their slaves in this particular.

For a considerable number of years the cotton goods and silks, the *calicoes*, muslins, and the infinite variety of East India cotton goods were furnished at the Levant by the route of the Red sea, Djudda, Suez and Egypt—by the Gulf of Persia, Busrah, Aleppo and Damascus. But the growth of this commerce became so great from the cheapness of transportation by the caravans, compared with the heavy expenses of navigation round the Cape, that the English resident merchants who were not in the service of the company, the Americans and Greeks who are numerous dispersed throughout India, were able to rival the goods brought by way of England and undersell them. Sir Robert Ansell, the English ambassador at Constantinople was directed in 1779, to put an end to this traffic, and he accomplished it by hiring a tribe of the vagabond Arabs to way lay the caravans. The history of this extraordinary transaction, though not immediately, is remotely connected with the subject of the trade to the Levant, and merits notice on that account.

The caravan which was interrupted set out from Suez at the head of the Red sea, in the first week of January 1779, and several English officers and other persons who were on their route over land for Europe, and had recently landed from two vessels at Suez accompanied the caravan, among others a M. de St. Germain from the island of Bourbon in the East African ocean. Their route was by Cairo. Five leagues from Suez the caravan was attacked by the hired Bedouins, and a rich caravan became their prey; the travellers had no sort of arms; and were of course incapable of resistance; they were stripped stark naked and left in that condition in the sandy desert, but not otherwise molested; a few made their way back to Suez in that deplorable condition; of eight who thinking to reach Cairo, seven perished by hunger, thirst and heat of the sun; M. de St. Germain alone survived of these; and during three days and nights. This execrable stratagem put an end to the traffic of India through those channels, and the only overland intercourse with India, of any importance, has been since conducted through America. But the market increased for English goods, and gave encouragement to the establishment of cotton manufactures in Germany.

In the commerce of the Levant there were disposed of, before the French revolution, twenty thousand pieces of mus-

lin—manufactured in Saxony, Bohemia, Upper Austria, and the Swiss cantons of St. Gall and Appenzel. The cotton from which these were all manufactured was all the produce of the Levant—a fact which is worthy of the consideration of the American cotton planters, and of those merchants who have shipped cotton as a good cargo for China.

The *calicoes* of Austria at one period had the greatest run in the Levant; those of Saxony at Constantinople alone; but those most generally coveted throughout Greece and Turkey were manufactured at Plevin in the district of Vaghtland in Upper Saxony;—The revolution terminated the competition of the French, who supplied from *Avignon* and *Beaune*, *calicoes* of brighter tints than the German, and of a finer texture; their patterns also were accommodated with a happy ingenuity to the fashion of the country, and were rapidly out selling the Germans, when the revolution suspended their industry and their competition.

Venice formerly furnished the Levant with glass of every kind as she formerly supplied all Europe with her polished mirrors.—France had outstript her in her manufacture of mirrors both in size and transparency, in the fineness of the plate and the perfection of the polish and the silvering; England has attempted to rival France in this branch, but hitherto without success. The Germans superceded the Venetians in the inferior glass trade, which however was of a different species of articles from those used by European nations.

The *crystals* of Bohemia, vases, chandeliers, glass globes, shades for tapers, lanterns, and some other fanciful articles, were furnished in abundance from Germany. The French supplied the smaller glass wares, and Venice supplied only the common and ordinary kinds; particularly glass beads, which the Turkish women and other female subjects of Turkey use in the decoration of their persons; but a great proportion of the coarse glass manufacture finds a vent in Egypt and Arabia, and along the African coast.

In works of iron and steel, commonly called *hardware*, the English surpass and it may be said supply the whole world. The Turks whose taste for fine wrought hardware is not so powerful as their love of money; purchase hardware of an inferior *finish*, because the patterns are nearly the same and the German is of a lower price. The English made steel also is preferred to the German, though the steel manufactures of Vienna obtained a very high reputation. Under this head may be comprehended fire arms, of which England furnishes a much less quantity than the superiority of the arts would seem to teach us to expect; a few articles made by the order of the English ambassador for presents, and incidentally a few cases of pistols find their way to the Levant.

The French before the revolution, who studied the wishes of those whom they sought to lay under the contributions of commerce, supplied ornamented arms in considerable quantities. But from Brescia, a city of Italy 32 miles north west of Milan, the Greek market was annually supplied with thirty cases of arms; the usual price of eight dollars for a firelock, and from ten to twelve for a pair of pistols, shews either of two facts, that the articles must be extremely cheap or of inferior quality; but Brescia is as much celebrated for its fire arms as Toledo or Isphahan for sword blades—the Venetians furnished nearly as much as the Brescians. The Turks prefer barrels of polished iron, and in this the Venetians gratified them; the French arms being bronzed, or as the gunsmith technically calls it *augurined*, which is an operation performed by holding the bright iron or steel over a clear fire, and employing a small portion of oil until the heat produces the degree of colour required. The Turkish armours have no knowledge of this art, and their habitual indifference to such things induces them to prefer the polished arms though more difficult to be kept bright, than the bronzed, which cannot be uniformly cleaned as they usually clean arms, with pumice or a file. They prefer stocks ornamented and inlaid with silver and gold, and barrels ornamented at the breach in the same way.

The trade in clocks and watches was beyond belief great in the Levant; and the English possessed the market in the greatest proportion. There were sold annually at Salonica thirty dozen of watches, at Constantinople 300 dozen, in Syria 400 dozen, and in Egypt 250 dozen; and from the prices on an average unlike the fire arms of Brescia, they must have been of the good kind, the average being from 80 to 120 dollars, this trade alone yielded to England a million of dollars a year; they are made for the market, with dials suited to the country, and with triple cases the outer of tortoise shell; the two inner cases of silver; gold watches not being in request. The principle competitors of the English were the Genoese,

who having become their competitors all over the world in this article may be presumed not to neglect a market so productive, and which had doubled in fifty years, and it is probable will increase, for wherever civilization is, time is a precious article; and though the Turks may not be our equals in the cultivation of the arts and the application of time, yet as they *fray* at five stated times every day, watches must be both necessary and economical.

In the numerous articles of silk manufacture the Italians carry on an immense trade in Greece and Turkey, and they have maintained it against competition from the reign of Mahomed II. in 1453, when the arts were banished from Greece to Italy, and took refuge under the house of Medicis.

The celebrated Florentine satins of all colours, the Florentine taffetas, and Mantuan silks, known by the name of *Maulini*; the damasks of Genoa, which with gold fringe, form the furniture of the Turkish apartments, the coverings of sofas and the hangings of their arcades; the silk gauzes of Bologna and Venice; the gallons and embroideries which go into the composition of scarfs and turbans, and those square and oblong pieces of ornamental dress which are (improperly, because it is the peculiar name of the *Cashimirean* garment) called *shawls*; but the manufactures of Lyons, before the revolution, had entered into a formidable competition with the silk manufactures of Italy; the workmanship of Lyons was superior to all but the satins of Florence and the Genoese damasks, to which nothing can be superior of the kind. In the commerce of silk England has no other part but in the raw article which she carries from Smyrna, and upon which, until the importations were made from China, the English silk manufacture wholly depended.

The *velvets* of Italy properly belong to this branch—those of Genoa, Lucca, and Pisa, surpass the whole world; the velvets of these cities are lighter, closer in grain, softer, and have a brighter lustre than any others, their colours have never been equalled, though various efforts have been made in France & England to rival them; the Italian velvets are besides cheaper than the inferior velvets of other countries. Fagon a celebrated Lyonnese manufacturer, said, that if they could equal the velvets and damasks of Genoa, it would be necessary to build another city along side the old one. The immense consumption of velvets in France before the revolution, amounted to a million of dollars, and the pagantry of the French imperial court, appears to portend extravagance in dress equal to any former period. The sale of velvets in the Levant, amounts annually to 400,000 dollars.

The competition of the Russians in the Levant, in the articles of *velvet* and other silks, with the south of Europe, is a circumstance so curious that we passed the general trade of Russia over in our review, in order that we might pursue the general trade which differs from all the rest of Europe, after we had touched this branch in which they are rivals.

The Russian empire furnishes silk of every kind; taffetas, gauzes, gallons, Persians, gold thread and gold lace; there come also *velvets*, and which approach the perfection of the Genoese, closer than those of any other nation. Russia owes these riches of commerce to her inroads on the borders of the Caspian, and the looms of Teflis and the whole range to the borders of Hindostan may be said to furnish these resources. The silks of Cassan, Astrachan, Ghilan, and Mazanderan, which formerly found their way by the Caravans of Erzerum and Teflis to Smyrna, have latterly found their way by Russia, and in their manufactured state by the Danube and the Euxine to Constantinople. The goods deposited at the capital entered the Levant, other portions passed into Rometia by the provinces of Wallachia and Moldavia, and so south of the Danube by the markets of Selimie and Ozongovia. But let it be observed the Greeks are the sole agents in this commerce. The Russians are too stupid to take any part in it. The Russian trade in silks and velvets in the Levant, is computed at 600,000 dollars.

Furs are the chief staple of the Russian commerce in the Levant, as well in Greece as in the whole Turkish empire. The various articles of this commerce would require a separate essay, and they are sufficiently familiar to us, to render a detail unnecessary, at the same time that this article does not come within the scope of our immediate discussion; there being no competition in these articles with the nations of Europe.—The fur trade of Turkey yields Russia annually about 900,000 dollars.

These outlines might be extended to a multitude of particulars in the vast range of commerce, but as our views have been rather confined to the demonstration of truths, which though existing have either

not been generally known or not duly appreciated, we consider what we have stated as sufficiently full and decisive on the subject.

There is one simple view, which we shall however add—the French commerce in the Levant was at its most prosperous height at the commencement of the revolution, or rather between the years 1785 and 1791—the aggregate of the French imports and exports in 1782 was 48,000,000 livres—or 12,000,000 dollars—in 1790 it rose to 70,000,000 of livres—or dollars 18,000,000. In the year 1669, the ministry of Colbert, it was only 3,700,000 livres, short of 1,000,000 dollars.

Will the sagacious men who rule France, and who have left all the politicians and statesmen that have hitherto existed in the back ground, will they advise adventures in search of mercantile wind mills on this side of the Atlantic, while they have at their doors losses to retrieve, rivals to counteract—means to consolidate and secure the whole commerce of the Levant. Those who indulge in such reveries—may reconcile them to their sickly or wayward fancies. We cannot reject reason, and the evidence of our senses—out of complacency to the crime of great men or small men who occupy high places.

(By Authority.)

AN ACT

To amend, in the cases therein mentioned, the Act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That so much of the Act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, as requires the collector for the district of Great Egg-harbor, in the state of New Jersey, to reside at Somers Point, be, and the same hereby is repealed, and the said collector shall reside at such place within said district, as may be directed by the secretary of the treasury.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the town or landing place of Darien, on the Altamaha river, in the state of Georgia, shall be a port of delivery, to be annexed to the district of Brunswick, and shall be subject to the same regulations and restrictions as other ports of delivery in the United States; and a surveyor shall be appointed, to reside at the said port of delivery, who shall be entitled to receive one hundred dollars annual salary, together with the other emoluments of office, as fixed by existing laws.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That Ocracoke inlet, in North Carolina, together with Shell Castle and Beacon Islands, and all the shores, islands, shoals, bays and waters, within two miles of the shores of said inlet, on each side thereof, shall be a district, to be called the district of Ocracoke: the President of the United States shall be authorized to designate such place in the said district, as he shall think proper, to be the port of entry; and a collector for said district shall be appointed, to reside at such port of entry, who in addition to his other emoluments, shall be entitled to receive the salary now allowed to the surveyor of Beacon Island, and no other; and shall also perform the duties heretofore enjoined by law on the said surveyor: But no duties shall be paid, or secured to be paid, in the said district of Ocracoke, on any articles intended for any other port, connected with the waters of the said inlet of Ocracoke, such only excepted as may be cast away within the said district. The office of surveyor of Beacon Island, shall be henceforth abolished, and the masters or commanders of every ship or vessel coming in at Ocracoke inlet, and intending to unlade her cargo, or any part thereof, at any port, other than the district of Ocracoke, connected with the waters of the said inlet, as well as the masters or commanders of all lighters or coasting vessels, who shall receive goods, wares or merchandise, to be transported to any such port, shall be bound to exhibit their reports and manifests to the said collector, and to perform all the other duties which, by the eighteenth section of the act entitled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage," they are now bound to perform, under similar circumstances, in the inlet aforesaid.

NATHL. MACON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

S. SMITH, President

of the Senate, Pro Tempore.

April 21, 1806—APPROVED.

TH. JEFFERSON.

A FEW COPIES OF THE

American Clerk's Magazine,

Or, POCKET COMPANION,

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